

3.0 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction

An assessment of heritage significance endeavours to establish why a place is important. Significance is embodied in the physical fabric of the place, its setting and relationship to other items, the recorded associations with the place, and the response the place evokes in the community or in individuals to whom it is important.

This section lists only those “items” which are of exceptional or high heritage significance. The listings are also cumulative in that they bring a number of different items together under the same heading. For significance gradings of individual items including items of lesser significance, refer to Vol. 2, Chapter 4 and Vol.3, Appendix K (Elements of Significance).

A Comparative Assessment of Parks in Australia, North America and Europe is found in Volume 3, Appendix G.

3.2 Types of Significance

The three types of heritage significance recognised for Centennial Parklands are as follows:

Natural Significance means the “importance of ecosystems, biological diversity and geodiversity for their existence value, or for present or future generations in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life-support value”. (Australian Natural Heritage Charter, 2002).

Indigenous Significance refers to Indigenous cultural heritage and includes Aboriginal sites showing evidence of Aboriginal occupation and Aboriginal places which are of contemporary or spiritual importance according to Aboriginal culture or custom (NSW Heritage Office). Indigenous heritage is interwoven with the non-Indigenous heritage of Australia and evidence of that heritage is found even in places commonly regarded as ‘European’.

Cultural Significance includes values that are social, spiritual, aesthetic, historic and scientific for past, present or future generations. The cultural significance of a place is embodied in its physical form or fabric, its setting and contents in associated documents, its uses, or in people’s memory and associations with the place. Historical cultural significance can be complex, varied and at times conflicting, a result of diverse communities and cultures. (Australia ICOMOS, p. 2-3)

3.3 Natural Heritage Significance

The natural heritage significance of Centennial Parklands is based on its values related to its geodiversity, biodiversity and ongoing ecological processes. These natural values are rare in this region of Sydney now largely developed for urban settlement.

Centennial Parklands forms a natural basin at the head of the Botany Bay catchment. Centennial Parklands retains remnants of the geological landforms and history, original ecosystems, biological diversity and ongoing ecological processes of the area known today as the eastern suburbs of Sydney.

Remnants of sandstone outcrops and sandhills are rare survivors of the eastern Sydney environment that formed during the tertiary and early

Significance of Centennial Parklands

Centennial Parklands is a unique place of exceptional National, State and Local heritage significance. It is a grand, linked open space of largely nineteenth-century landscape design intended for social and physical activity.

The Parklands has developed at the head of the Botany Bay catchment in an area originally part of the territory of the Gadi people on lands designated in 1811 as the Sydney Common.

The Parklands retains evidence of the original landforms and plays a vital role in sustaining natural processes and biological diversity on a scale that is rare in the inner urban environment.

The Parklands has national significance as the place of the inauguration of the nation, the creation of a People’s Park, events, persons and monuments of national importance.

The place also has strong associations with convict heritage, pathways and transportation routes, water supply, horticultural and agricultural experimentation, nature conservation, military use, and a diversity of sport, recreation and cultures.

quaternary periods. The history of landforms is also reflected in the performance of plantings due to underlying geology. These remnants and influences demonstrate the geological origins of today's environment and illustrate the strength of natural connections to other parts of the region, such as Botany Bay.

The modified wetlands and water bodies in the Parklands today remain significant because they reflect the original topography and hydrology of the place and support ongoing ecological processes. The natural seepage of water through the sandstone and sands, combined with the high water table, created the Lachlan Swamps, part of the system of wetlands in the Botany Bay catchment. The ponds in the Parklands form the largest freshwater wetland system in inner-metropolitan Sydney.

This wetlands ecosystem provides a habitat for indigenous fauna and water birds and migratory waders. Centennial Parklands contributes to the conservation of indigenous flora and fauna within remnants of the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, an endangered ecological community, and within the wetland environment.

The plantings of indigenous and introduced species within Centennial Parklands also provide habitat that contributes to the conservation of indigenous fauna species, particularly birds and bats. Centennial Parklands provides habitat for fauna species listed in schedules of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995: the Eastern Freetail-Bat (*Mormopterus norfolkensis*) and the Mary River Turtle (*Elusor macrurus*) (introduced from Queensland¹).

The geodiversity and biodiversity attributes of the Parklands continue to provide a resource for scientific reference and research for the wider understanding of the environment of the Sydney region. The community values highly and has strong associations with the natural biodiversity, geodiversity and ecosystems found in Centennial Parklands.

3.4 Indigenous Heritage Significance

Centennial Parklands is important in the pattern of Indigenous usage of the eastern Sydney peninsula. Indigenous land management practices have helped shape the landscape of the Sydney region. Early colonial records include reports of a *Kangaroo Ground* in close proximity to the Parklands indicating that fire management practices occurred in this area.

Centennial Parklands is located within the clan territories of the Gadi people. The area is representative of a complex of pre-colonial Indigenous meeting places used for social, ceremonial and other purposes. Many physical elements of the Indigenous cultural landscape were changed after European contact in 1788, but present day Indigenous communities continue to honour the spiritual and other associations of the Gadi with this area, celebrating and encouraging interest in this history.

The Parklands contain two pre-colonial archaeological sites listed on the NPWS Sites Register. They are representative of the creative and technical achievements of Indigenous Australians in this part of Sydney. Further study of these and related sites will contribute to a better understanding and appreciation of patterns of land and resource use in the eastern Sydney peninsula. There is potential for further study into pre-colonial usage of freshwater wetland systems. Areas of remnant vegetation contain

¹ The Mary River Turtle has been introduced to the Parklands and may compete with local species.

various indigenous plant species. These areas have the potential to yield information about bush foods and medicines significant to the Indigenous communities of Sydney.

King Billy Timbery lived at La Perouse and reportedly operated a tollgate on a main road through today's Parklands, c1860. He is believed to be the first Indigenous person officially employed in the Parklands.

Centennial Parklands continues to be an important cultural landscape for Sydney's Indigenous communities. Many families have personal associations with this place, and have joined their relations for gatherings here over many years.

Commemorative events marking the Federation of Australia were celebrated in the Parklands and are associated with past failures to give citizenship status to all Indigenous Australians.²

Members of local and other Indigenous communities have participated in sports held throughout the Parklands. Indigenous representation in state and national sporting events held at Centennial Parklands and neighbouring precincts bears testimony to the significance of the area in a tradition of Indigenous sporting excellence. Current generations are proud of these achievements.

3.5 Cultural Heritage Significance

Centennial Parklands is historically part of the site of the Sydney Common proclaimed by Governor Lachlan Macquarie on 5th October 1811.

It is the site of the second water supply for the early colony of Sydney. The creation of the Lachlan Water Reserve in 1820, the subsequent modification of wetlands and water courses and the convict construction of Busby's Bore were critical to the survival of the colony until 1858.

Centennial Parklands is representative of a mid-nineteenth century trend which established large, landscaped urban parks for healthy recreation of all social classes and as relief from cramped living conditions and industrialised urban centres.

The dedication of Centennial Park in 1888 marked a significant milestone in the development of the Australian colonies – the centenary of European settlement in New South Wales.

Centennial Park also provided the setting for the following prominent events: The Centenary celebrations 1888, Annual Military Reviews; the Commonwealth Swearing-in Ceremony 1901; the American Fleet Review 1908; mourning for the death of King Edward VII 1910; Peace Celebrations and Thanksgiving Service 1918; Sesqui-Centenary Celebrations 1938; Federation Jubilee 1951; Federation Pavilion dedication 1988; Bicentenary Celebrations 1988; the 2000 Olympic Games, Paralympics and the Centenary of Federation, 2001.

Anzac Parade, which runs between Moore Park and Centennial Park, commemorates the Australian and New Zealand troops who lost their lives while fighting in World War I.

² Citizenship and voting rights were only granted to Indigenous landowners, while those on government missions and reserves were refused citizenship.

The Parklands has significant associations with prominent figures in the social, cultural and political history of Sydney, NSW and Australia. These include:

- Governor Lachlan Macquarie
- Sir Henry Parkes, politician,
- Edmund Barton, first Prime Minister;
- Lord Hopetoun, first Governor General;
- Charles Moore, Mayor of Sydney (1867-1869);
- Walter Renny, Mayor of Sydney (1869-1870);
- John Harris, Mayor of Sydney (1888-89)
- William Kippax, Alderman (1863-1889);
- Richard Driver, sportsman and politician;
- ES Marks, sportsman;
- Patrick White, author, Nobel Prize Laureate

The Parklands has strong associations with institutions and individuals influential in the horticultural development of Sydney and New South Wales. They include Charles Moore, Director of Sydney's Botanic Gardens and his successor, Joseph H Maiden. James Jones and William Forsyth (Park supervisors) also contributed significantly to the Parkland's development through their selection of landscape elements and plantings. Collectively these people influenced amenity horticulture, particularly tree species that became characteristic of urban parks and streets throughout NSW.

Centennial Parklands is a fine intact example of a planned landscape with landmark qualities typical of the Victorian period. It demonstrates an evolution of landscape styles up to the present day including the following: English landscape tradition, Picturesque, Gardenesque and post-World War II Native Plant Movement. The landscape design combines contrasting landscape types with spatial diversity.

Centennial Parklands is rare as a large public green space in inner suburban Sydney which provides a venue for a diversity of structured and informal recreation, sport and education, and an opportunity to escape from the stresses of urban living. The development of the Parklands and surrounding suburbs was strongly influenced by the Garden City Movement and the increase in leisure time upon the introduction of the 8 hour working day.

The very high levels of visitation and recreational use of the area are a measure of the value of Centennial Parklands to past and present generations. The Parklands is host to important social and cultural events in the life of the community.

The Parklands is valued as an educational resource that provides an environment for integrated understanding of Natural, Indigenous and Cultural heritage.

Centennial Parklands is highly valued for its space, scale, beauty and grandeur, and for the diversity of its Natural, Indigenous and Cultural heritage.

The contemporary community places great value on maintaining Centennial Parklands for present and future generations. This is gauged by listings on all major heritage registers at National, State and local levels, and community concerns about inappropriate development in and around the Parklands.

Centennial Parklands continues to be a site of leading and innovative park management practices and horticultural experimentation.

Centennial Park is the first designed suburban park in Australia, based on the English model of integrated suburban residential development and recreational open space.

Centennial Park is the site of Sydney's first public suburban drive – the Grand Drive, which is a rare example of a grand tree-lined avenue laid out in the Gardenesque style.

Centennial Park is rare for being one of a select number of parks in the world that offer inner-city equestrian facilities.

Centennial Parklands contains a number of individual items of exceptional cultural heritage significance for their rarity and representativeness. They include:

- Busby's Bore (built 1827-1838), a rare surviving engineering work built using convict labour and associated with Sydney's second water supply.
- The Boundary Stone, located on the corner of South Dowling and Cleveland Streets, is a rare example of a marker of the city limits that date to the period of Governor Richard Bourke (1833).
- The former Tollhouse on the corner of Anzac Parade and Lang Road (1860) is a rare intact example of a two-storey mid nineteenth-century tollhouse.
- The Inkberry Tree located at the entrance to Musgrave Ponds area from junction of Darley Road and Queens Park Road is a rare specimen tree associated with the Victorian Period planting.
- The Commonwealth Stone (1901) marking the place where the Federation of Australia was signed. Housed since 1988 in the Federation Pavilion.

3.6 Assessment Methodology

The following guidelines have been used in assessing heritage significance:

- (Australia ICOMOS) *Burra Charter*;
- The Heritage Council's, *Natural Heritage Principles*, *The Australian Natural Heritage Charter*, 2002 and the NPWS, *Land for Wildlife Notes* and *Land for Wildlife Newsletter*. These provide guidelines for an understanding of scientific values particularly for the conservation of species habitats and eco-systems;
- The New South Wales Heritage Office Guidelines, *Heritage Manual* and *Assessing Heritage (Aboriginal Heritage)*;
- The National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) have prepared *Aboriginal Heritage Standards and Guidelines Kit* to assist in the assessment of the cultural value of Indigenous heritage places within present-day Indigenous culture; and
- Archaeological heritage assessment has been undertaken using the *Archaeological Assessments Guidelines*.

3.7 Criteria – Indigenous and Cultural Heritage Significance

The following Significance Criteria have been adopted from the NSW Heritage Office Guidelines, 2000, for Assessing Heritage Significance. An item will be considered to be significant to the Nation, State or local government area if, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, it meets one or more of the following criteria:

	NATURE OF SIGNIFICANCE	JUSTIFICATION FOR SIGNIFICANCE	
		Guidelines for INCLUSION	Guidelines for EXCLUSION
Criterion (a)	An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);	Shows evidence of a significant human activity, is associated with a significant activity or historical phase, maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity	Has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes, provides evidence of activities or processes that are of dubious historical importance, has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association
Criterion (b)	An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);	Shows evidence of a significant human occupation Is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons	Has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events Provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance Has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association
Criterion (c)	An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local history);	Shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement, is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement, is aesthetically distinctive, has landmark qualities, exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology	Is not a major work by an important designer or artist, has lost its design or technical integrity, its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded, has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement
Criterion (d)	An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;	Is important for its associations with an identifiable group, is important to a community's sense of place	Is only important to the community for amenity reasons, is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative
Criterion (e)	An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the natural or cultural history of the local area);	Has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information, is an important benchmark or reference site or type, provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere	The knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture, has little archaeological or research potential, only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites
Criterion (f)	An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);	Provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process, demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger or being lost, shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity, is the only example of its type, demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest, shows rare evidence of a significant human activity to a community	Is not rare, is numerous but under threat
Criterion (g)	An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's Cultural or natural places; or Cultural or natural environments. (Or a class of the local area's Cultural or natural places; or Cultural or natural environments).	Is a fine example of its type, has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items, has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity, is a significant variation to a class of items, is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type, is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size, is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held	Is poor example of its type, does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type, does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type

3.8 Criteria - Natural Heritage Significance

The following are criteria from the Australian Natural Heritage Charter used for the assessing of natural significance:

	NATURE OF SIGNIFICANCE
Criterion (a)	Biodiversity (community diversity, species diversity, genetic diversity)
Criterion (b)	Geodiversity (geological, geomorphological, palaeontological, soil, hydrological, atmospheric features and systems, earth processes)
Criterion (c)	Ecosystem values (natural integrity, ecological processes, habitat)
Criterion (d)	Existence (or intrinsic) value;
Criterion (e)	Socially based and aesthetic values (wilderness and wild rivers concepts).

Further criteria considered in the development of the Conservation Management Plan are contained in Vol.2, Chapter 4. From the assessment of items against these criteria, a table showing how significance gradings are applied is provided at 3.9 below.

3.9 Grading of Significance

The following grading table has been developed from the above criteria for the assessment:

Natural, Indigenous and Cultural Significance

Exceptional Significance	Rare or outstanding item, or association with place of local, state or national significance. High degree of intactness or high level of recording. Item can be interpreted relatively easily.	Fulfills criteria for local, state or national listing.
High Significance	High degree of original fabric or association with place. Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	Fulfills criteria for local, state or national listing.
Moderate Significance	Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item	Fulfills criteria for local, state or national listing
Little Significance	Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret.	Does not fulfill criteria for local, state or national listing
Neutral	Items which do not impact on the significance of the place. They may be required to perform functions in association with the place's operation but their existence is not relevant to the place's cultural significance	Does not fulfill criteria for local, state or national listing
Intrusive	Damaging to the item's heritage significance	Does not fulfill criteria for local, state or national listing

3.10 Identified Historical Themes – Analysis and Significance

The following analysis and significance assessment has been undertaken using the Historic Themes as the basis for structuring the assessment. Those elements considered having Exceptional and High Significance have been cumulatively considered in this section of the report. A matrix showing the levels of significance of all the elements of the Parklands has been outlined in Volume 3, Appendix K of this Conservation Management Plan.

The Type of Significance has been acknowledged by indicating which is appropriate Natural, Indigenous and Cultural. The level of significance has been determined as being National, State, or Local.

Local Indigenous people consider the Parklands to be a place of exceptional Indigenous cultural heritage. The information on Indigenous associations with the Parklands has largely come from secondary sources, extrapolations and interviews with members of Sydney's Indigenous communities. Further study is required to confirm and further determine the precise nature of many of these associations.

1.0	National Theme: Tracing Natural Evolution	
1.1	State Theme: Environment – naturally evolved	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE
1.1.1	<p>Geology: Remnant sandstone outcrops and sand hills are significant as rare survivors of a greatly modified environment. The area exhibits the boundary between Hawkesbury Sandstone and Botany Sands. Sand hills form part of the Centennial Parklands and have been modified through various phases of leveling, however Mount Steele remains the least affected.</p>	<p>Exceptional</p> <p>Natural, Indigenous & Cultural</p> <p>Local</p>
1.1.2	<p>Topography: Sandstone plateaux remnants, modified wetlands and water bodies are significant because they reflect the original topography of the place that prevailed prior to European settlement.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Natural, Indigenous</p> <p>Local</p>
1.1.3	<p>Catchment Hydrology: The remnants of the Lachlan Swamps are of natural significance and continue to form the head of the Botany Bay catchment. The waterbodies continue to be linked to the Botany Wetlands downstream which have geo-diversity significance. The wetlands in the Parklands provide a habitat for indigenous water birds. The natural process of water purification continues to be important to the urban population, Indigenous communities and the ecology of the local and regional environment. The ponds throughout the park form the largest freshwater wetland system in inner-metropolitan Sydney.</p>	<p>Exceptional</p> <p>Natural, Indigenous & Cultural</p> <p>Local</p>
1.1.4	<p>Soils: Remnants of soils that identify the natural land formations of the area are still evident in the Parklands. The nutrient-poor deep sanddunes continue to support endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. Some of the Parklands' soils are rare and require further analysis and investigation, particularly for their potential to yield evidence of human occupation in the distant past. Soil modifications reveal phases of occupation, management and development associated with non-Indigenous cultural landscapes.</p>	<p>Exceptional</p> <p>Natural, Indigenous & Cultural</p> <p>Local</p>

1.1.5	<p>Biodiversity: Indigenous Flora and Fauna The Parklands contains remnants of the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, an endangered ecological community protected under State and Commonwealth legislation.</p> <p>More than 150 species of indigenous birds, including migratory waders have been recorded in the Parklands. Indigenous fish (including eels) together with brushtail possums, antechinus, lizards and skinks, five species of bats, five species of frogs, and seven species of turtles have been recorded in the Parklands. A fauna species inventory is attached in Volume 3, Appendix C.</p>	<p>Exceptional</p> <p>Natural, Indigenous & Cultural</p> <p>National, State, Local</p>
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2.0	National Theme: Peopling Australia	
2.1	State Theme: Aboriginal Cultures	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE
2.1.1	<p>Indigenous use of Flora and Fauna Aboriginal traditional use of flora and fauna for food, weapons, tools and medicinal purposes in the pre-colonial and post-contact periods is likely to have occurred in the Parklands. The Parklands contains many species, which are likely to have been utilised as resources by Indigenous people and formed part of their totemic kinship system.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Natural, Indigenous & Cultural</p> <p>Local</p>
2.1.2	<p>Indigenous Cultural Land Management Prior to colonisation the Indigenous people who lived in the Sydney region interacted with the natural environment in ways that created a cultural landscape – for example fire and other land management tools were used to shape and manage food and other resource production.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Indigenous</p> <p>Local</p>
2.1.3	<p>Fresh Water Source Permanent supply of fresh water in the Lachlan Swamps is likely to have attracted Indigenous people to use the Parklands for temporary camping locations, food and resource collecting.</p>	<p>Exceptional</p> <p>Natural, Indigenous & Cultural</p> <p>Local</p>
2.1.4	<p>Pre-Colonial Archaeology Evidence of pre-colonial usage and occupation of the Parklands by Indigenous people is established through archaeological sites located in and around the Parklands. Although the two known sites, and a nearby hearth site at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Randwick, are largely destroyed there is scientific/research potential for further study to provide a clearer indication of the relationship between the Parkland sites and others of the eastern Sydney peninsula. If archaeological deposits are found, they would be highly significant.</p>	<p>Exceptional-</p> <p>Indigenous & Cultural</p> <p>Local</p>
2.1.5	<p>Meeting Places The Parklands lie within the traditional territory of the Gadi people. Recorded re-colonial sites in and around the Parklands indicate occupation and usage of an area rich in natural resources. Oral history provides evidence of recent use of the Parklands as a meeting place for Indigenous families on camping and food gathering trips in the 1930's. The area is a significant part of a complex of Indigenous meeting places used for social, ceremonial and other purposes in what are now the suburbs of Sydney.</p>	<p>Exceptional-</p> <p>Indigenous & Cultural</p> <p>Local</p>
2.1.6	<p>Tracks and Pathways The Parklands has associations with Indigenous tracks and pathways connecting important places for the Gadigal and other clans, including ritual, burial and ceremony places, hunting grounds and food gathering places. For example, the word <i>maroubra</i> is said to mean 'belonging to the pathway country' and it is likely that linkages existed between the area now known as Maroubra and pathways in the area of the Parklands. Some of these pathways may also have intersected with or followed the dreaming tracks of spirit ancestors who created the landforms and natural features, transforming themselves into animals and humans during their journeys.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Indigenous & Cultural</p> <p>Local</p>
2.1.7	<p>Aboriginal Employment Historical and recent employment of members of the Indigenous community in the Parklands</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Indigenous</p> <p>Local</p>

2.0	National Theme: Peopling Australia	
2.1	State Theme: Aboriginal Cultures	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE
2.1.8	Reconciliation: Continuing associations with the National Reconciliation Movement are found within the Parklands.	High Indigenous & Cultural National
2.1.9	Post-Contact Archaeology Evidence of Post-Contact non-Indigenous associations with the area is found in archaeological sites located in and around the Parklands. These sites are mostly significant for their associations with the provision of water to Sydney. There is also evidence of an early industrial site and potential evidence relating to Mr Billy Timbery ("King Billy Timbery"), believed to be the first Indigenous person to work in the Parklands.	High Indigenous & Cultural Local
2.2	State Theme: Convict	
2.2.1	Convict Work Associations with convict labour in the construction of Busby's Bore	Exceptional Cultural State
2.2.1b	Convict labour was involved in stone quarrying and tree felling for fuel in the Sydney Common area.	High Cultural Local
3.0	National Theme: Developing National, Regional and Local Economies	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE
3.2	State Theme: Environment-cultural landscape	
3.2.1	Nature Conservation The Bird Sanctuary at the Parklands has associations with the Gould League, a society dedicated to the protection of indigenous birdlife. (for natural significance refer to 1.1.5)	High Indigenous & Cultural Local
3.2.2	Cultural Landscape Areas A continuity of planting design initiated by Charles Moore and continued by JH Maiden together with additional contrasting plant species to create a distinctive umbrageous woodland landscape character, particularly on the sloping and higher ground of former sandhills and part sandstone ridges and terraced slopes.	High Cultural Local
	Federation Valley as the site of the 1901 Federation Swearing-In Ceremony. Ceremonial Triangle as site of Centennial celebrations and commemorative plantings in 1888.	Exceptional Cultural National
3.2.3	Linear Roadside Planting Demonstrated pattern of roadside plantations to create a particular scale and character for the main structural planting of the parklands despite separate management regimes. Main vehicular drives and horse track were integrated with planting design. Choice of tree species reflects the influence of the (Royal) Sydney Botanic Gardens directors and staff with a general preference for sub-tropical flora as tried and tested palette of plants known to cope with extremes of environmental conditions and to provide needed shade for users.	High Cultural Local
3.2.4	Dam Wall Plantations Plantations associated with the influence of the period of JH Maiden as Director of (Royal) Sydney Botanic Gardens and an attempt to both visually disguise the impact of the dam walls and enhance the paths along the top of the walls.	High Cultural Local
3.2.5	Row Plantations Row plantations associated with the horticultural experiments of JH Maiden and contributing to the distinctive aesthetic qualities of the Parklands through an attempted ecological association.	High Cultural Local
3.2.6	Individual plantings Figs generally throughout the Parklands have aesthetic significance as an integral part of the made landscape of the Parklands associated with the planting design of C Moore and JH Maiden. They also have cultural associations for Indigenous people and value for fauna habitat and environmental quality.	Exceptional Natural, Indigenous, Cultural Local
	Inkberry Tree at Musgrave Avenue entrance is a locally rare specimen.	High, Cultural, Local

3.0	National Theme: Developing National, Regional and Local Economies	
3.2	State Theme: Environment-cultural landscape	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE
3.2.7	<p>Man-Made Islands Associated with the formation of Centennial Park by Charles Moore and staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, to create picturesque exotic landscape elements to break up the waterforms of the former Lachlan Water Reserve ponds and to create safe habitats for wetland birds.</p>	High Cultural Local
	<p>Natural Island Formation Processes The natural processes involved natural island formation within the Parklands' waterbodies are of exceptional scientific interest in the management of the wetland system. Fauna habitat is also provided by these islands.</p>	Exceptional Natural Local
3.2.8	<p>Views and Vistas Natural and designed locations for taking in the views and vistas within the park to appreciate the landscape composition and regional and geological context of the Parklands. Many were important to the Gadi people and those travelling through their territory. Many views and vistas visually connect to Botany Bay, the site of Cook's 1770 landing and the 1788 landing of the First Fleet (prior to removal to Port Jackson). This link also has significance in illustrating the connections throughout the catchment.</p>	Exceptional Natural, Indigenous & Cultural Local
3.3	State Theme: Exploration	
	<p>Exploration Early exploration for arable land and water supplies to maintain the colony is evident in some of the existing roads in and around the Parklands, many of which were important pathways used by Indigenous people.</p>	High Indigenous & Cultural State
3.4	State Theme: Health	
	<p>Healthcare The Parklands has long provided public open space, with benefits associated with the area as a 'green lung' for surrounding urban areas and with a healthy lifestyle through sport and recreation.</p>	Exceptional Indigenous & Cultural Local

3.0	National Theme: Developing National, Regional and Local Economies	
3.7	State Theme: Science	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE
3.7.1	<p>Experimental Plantings The Parklands has technical and research associations with experimental plantings that date from the period of the layout of Moore Park to the present. The Centennial Parklands are important for their associations with several institutions and individuals influential in the horticultural development of Sydney and NSW. Collectively these individuals (eg C. Moore, JH Maiden, J Jones, W Forsyth) had an enormous influence on amenity horticulture, particularly the tree species that have become characteristic of many of our urban parks and streets.</p>	High Cultural Local

3.8	State Theme: Transport	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE
3.8.1	<i>Local Theme: Moving of People and Goods</i>	
	<p>Roads Development of roadways has reflected the development and definition of the area and changes in mobility and transportation. The early construction of roads and other buildings are also associated with the destruction of a large number of Aboriginal sites, paths and tracks in the Sydney region.</p>	High Cultural Local
	<p>Tollhouses The extant tollhouse reflects the early history of government administration and sources of financial revenue. It is rare as an example of a two-storey tollhouse. The site of the Tay Reserve Tollhouse is associated with perhaps the first Indigenous Parklands employee and with early government administration.</p>	Exceptional Cultural Local

4.0	National Theme: Building Settlements-Analysis and Significance	
4.1	State Theme: Towns, suburbs and villages	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING
4.1.1	<i>Local Theme: Creating, Planning and managing Urban Functions</i>	
	Subdivision The consistency of design standard and style of housing associated with the Federation period has created a residential precinct of considerable aesthetic significance.	High Cultural Local & State
4.2	State Theme: Land Tenure	
4.2.1	<i>Local Theme: Identifying Forms of Ownership and Land Occupancy</i>	
	Fences and Gates Fences and gates in the Parklands are significant features within the landscape and contribute to the history and character of the Parklands. Particularly they provide a major contribution to the 19 th Century character of the Parklands	Exceptional Cultural Local
	Boundary Stone The Boundary Stone now located in the Bat and Ball area is a rare example of markers of the city limits that date to the period of Governor Richard Bourke.	Exceptional Cultural Local

4.0	National Theme: Building Settlements-Analysis and Significance	
4.3	State Theme: Utilities	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE
4.3.1	<i>Local Theme: Provision of Services</i>	
	Water Supply The Lachlan Water Reserve has historic associations with the Parklands having provided the township of Sydney with its second major supply of fresh water. Remnants of it are evident in the waterbodies, Busby's Bore and various archaeological remains. The Parklands' role in the provision of water supplies continues with the reservoirs.	Exceptional Cultural State
4.3.2	<i>Local Theme: Provision of Services-Bore</i>	
	Busby's Bore Busby's Bore is a unique engineering achievement, which played a crucial role in the development of urban Sydney. As a product of public works carried out by convict labour and as a major factor in the establishment of local administration in NSW (in the form of the Sydney Corporation). The Bore is representative of English rock mining techniques of the period and of rock mining in other parts of Australia. The intactness of the early nineteenth-century convict-built water supply makes it a rare survivor from this period within urban Sydney. As the main water supply to Sydney from 1837 to 1953 the Bore is a unique item.	Exceptional Cultural State
4.3.3	<i>Local Theme: Provision of Services</i>	
	Reservoirs The three reservoirs located in the Parklands collectively provide evidence of the history of differing methods of construction of reservoirs to provide water supplies to the expanding population of the eastern suburbs of Sydney. They are representative of a small group of reservoirs located under parklands.	Exceptional, High, Moderate Cultural Local
4.3.4	<i>Local Theme: Structures</i>	
	Sandstone bridges, dams and culverts provide an understanding of the management of the water systems within the Parklands.	High Cultural Local
4.3.5	<i>Local Theme: Amenities</i>	
	Drinking fountains within the Parklands have historic associations with important events, persons, and affiliated groups who have contributed to the evolution of the area, such as John Harris, Mayor of Sydney and William Kippax, Alderman, the Cricket Association and Walter Renny, Mayor. The water fountains have aesthetic values that also contribute to that significance.	High Cultural Local

4.4	State Theme: Accommodation	
4.4.1	<i>Local Theme: Provision of Accommodation</i>	
	Houses and Residences The two extant residences within the Parklands were designed by Barnett and Vernon, the Colonial/ Government Architects and are representative of domestic architecture for government officials. The former rangers' cottages associated with the period of Water System occupation have historic associations and archaeological potential.	High Cultural Local
4.4.2	Pavilions The Federation Pavilion has historic associations with Federation and the centenary of Federation ceremonies and aesthetic cultural significance associated with the RAlA award. The Shelter Pavilion has associations with WL Vernon, the NSW Government Architect. The new kiosk interprets the original Kiosk/ Cyclists Pavilion location and has social significance associated with its use as a major formalised meeting place within the Parklands for over a century.	High Cultural Local

5.0	National Theme: Working	
5.1	State Theme: Labour	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE
5.1.1	<i>Local Theme: Activities associated with work practices</i>	
	Labour Centennial Parklands has associations with the creation of the eight hour working day in its implication for more recreational time and sport which promoted the creation of public parks. Labour bans in the 1970s contributed to the conservation of the Parklands.	High Cultural State

6.0	National Theme: Educating	
6.1	State Theme: Education	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE
	The Parklands plays an important educational and research role associated with the disciplines of history, Indigenous studies, ecology, geology, hydrology and leisure management.	Exceptional Natural, Indigenous & Cultural Local

7.0	National Theme: Governing	
7.1	State Theme: Defence	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE
7.1.1	<i>Local Theme: Military Defences</i>	
	There are historical associations with the presence of the military defence forces (including Aboriginal soldiers) in the Centennial Parklands.	High Indigenous & Cultural State
7.1.2	<i>Local Theme: Military Training</i>	
	There is historical significance associated with the military Rifle Range located within the Centennial Parklands	High Cultural State
7.1.3	<i>Local Theme: World Wars I and II</i>	
	There are historic associations with the occupation of the Parklands by the defence forces during the two world wars.	High Cultural State Level

7.2	State Theme: Government and Administration	
7.2.1	<i>Local Theme: Administration</i>	
	There is historical significance associated with the management of the Parklands by numerous governmental administrators from 1811 to the present. These include the City of Sydney, the (Royal) Sydney Botanic Gardens, the NSW Department of Agriculture and Trustees appointed by the Premier's Department, NSW Government. 1894 marks the date that the Parklands was administered by a single body since its inception as the Sydney Common.	High Cultural State
7.2.2	<i>Local Theme: Community Involvement</i>	
	Community involvement, including Sydney's Indigenous communities, has been critical to the development of the Parklands and has shaped what has become known as The People's Park and its availability for public use. Previous community campaigns against inappropriate development in and around the Parklands are of significance in light of the future management of the Parklands' heritage.	Exceptional Indigenous & Cultural State

7.3	State Theme: Welfare	
	There is historical significance associated with the provision of welfare in return for relief work that helped to construct and maintain the Parklands.	High Cultural Local

8.0	National Theme: Developing Australia's Cultural Life	
8.1	State Theme: Creative Endeavour	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE
8.1.1	<i>Local Theme: Music</i>	
	Centennial Parklands has been the select venue for a diverse range of fine musical performances for over a century.	High Cultural Local
8.1.2	<i>Local Theme: Visual and Performing Arts</i>	
	Arts based events held regularly at Centennial Parklands recognise the significant contributions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian artists to Australian contemporary culture.	High Cultural Local
8.1.3	<i>Local Theme: Community Festivals</i>	
	Community Festivals in and around the Parklands are an opportunity for the diverse cultures represented in Sydney today to celebrate and share their cultural expression with each other and the public.	High Cultural Local
8.5.1	<i>Local Theme: Architectural Design</i>	
	Located within the Parklands are fine, representative examples of buildings designed by the officers of the Government Architects and commercial architectural firms, which contribute to the significance of the Parklands. Architectural design is an ongoing contributory area to the significance of the Parklands.	Exceptional Cultural State
8.5.2	<i>Local Theme: Landscape Design</i>	
	The design of the Parklands is the result of the collective work of numerous Directors, Head Gardeners, Overseers, Superintendents, Landscape Gardeners and Landscape Architects over the years whose contributions are reflected in the overall landscape character. Landscape design is an ongoing contributory area to the significance of the Parklands.	Exceptional Cultural State
8.5.3	<i>Local Theme: Urban Design</i>	
	Subdivision The consistency of design standard and style of housing associated with the Federation period has created a residential area surrounding the Parklands of considerable aesthetic significance. This is due to the urban design and planning of several residential precincts through the use of covenants. The Martin Road and Lang Road Conservation Areas have State heritage significance under the South Sydney LEP/DCP.	Exceptional Cultural State

8.5.4	<i>Local Theme: Artworks</i>	
	Various artists have depicted the visual beauty of the Parklands, including Austin Platt, Howard Ashton and Roland Waiklin. The collection of drawings by Austin Platt, owned by the Parklands is of considerable significance.	High Cultural Local
8.5.5	<i>Local Theme: Statutory and Sculpture</i>	
	The bronze sculptures "We Won" and the sandstone columns (formerly from the Australian Museum) together with the sculptures that surmount them, form the intact elements from the Charles Moore period of cultural landscape development.	High Cultural Local
8.5.6	<i>Local Theme: Literature</i>	
	Centennial Parklands has been used as the setting for novels by prominent authors such as Nobel Laureate Patrick White and has promoted a national awareness of its cultural values.	High Cultural National
8.5.7	<i>Local Theme: Films</i>	
	The documentation and use of Centennial Parklands on film provides technical/research potential and assists in raising awareness of the Parklands.	High Cultural Local
8.2	State Theme: Leisure and Sport, and Social Values	
	Centennial Parklands has exceptional significance from a leisure and sport perspective. The individual parks were established in the 1880's with the aim to cater for leisure and sport and have provided a social meeting place and leisure and sporting activity resource for more than a century. Centennial Parklands now receives millions of visits annually from metropolitan Sydney and beyond, a measure of the high degree of social esteem and value associated with leisure, sport, social and cultural pursuits in the Parklands. For detailed area and activities, refer to Vol. 2, Chapter 4.	Exceptional Cultural State

9.0	National Theme: Marking the Phases of Life	
	SIGNIFICANCE	CUMULATIVE GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE
9.2	State Theme: Commemorative Events	
	Commemorative events within the Parklands have occurred marking the Centenary of European settlement of Australia, bicentennial events and centenary of Federation.	Exceptional Cultural National
9.2.1	<i>Local Themes: Special Events</i>	
	The signing of the Imperial Commonwealth Act was an event of national significance, recognising the identity of Australia as a unified nation.	Exceptional Cultural National
9.2.2	<i>Local Theme: Commemorative Monuments</i>	
	Centennial Park is a commemorative monument of national significance to the people of Australia, celebrating the centennial of European Australia. The Federation Stone is a monument representing the Federation of Australia. Moore Park, the Kippax Lake Drinking Fountain and the Renny Drinking Fountains are examples of commemorative monuments dedicated to prominent local politicians who are associated with the Parklands.	Exceptional Cultural National

9.3	State Theme: Persons	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Lachlan Macquarie – Lachlan Swamp, Water Reserve • Sir Henry Parkes, politician – Statue, State House site, 1888 Gate Posts • Edmund Barton, first Prime Minister – Commonwealth Stone, Federation Valley, Commemorative Triangle • Lord Hopetoun, first Governor General – Commonwealth Stone, Federation Valley, Commemorative Triangle • Charles Moore, Mayor of Sydney – Moore Park • Walter Renny – Mayor Sydney – Renny Fountain, Mount Rennie (sic) • William Kippax, Alderman – Kippax Lake • ES Marks, sportsman – ES Marks Athletics Field • Patrick White, author, Nobel Prize Laureate – South West Corner, 20 Martin Road. 	Exceptional Cultural National, State & Local